

The International Conference “Unions of States in the Past. Theory and Practice” (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, September 20, 2019)

Keywords: conference, legal history, constitutional history, political union, union of states, journal, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Słowa kluczowe: konferencja naukowa, historia prawa, historia ustroju, unia, unia międzypaństwowa, czasopismo, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków

On Friday, September 20, 2019, a conference regarding legal historical aspects of political unions took place under the aegis of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. The symposium titled “Unions of States in the Past: Theory and Practice” was hosted by the following departments of the Faculty of Law and Administration: the Chair of Ecclesiastical Law and Law on Religious Denominations, the Chair of the General History of State and Law, the Chair of the History of Administration and Administrative Ideas, and the Chair of the History of Polish Law, as well as the Editorial Board of the journal “Cracow Studies of Constitutional and Legal History”. The colloquium, which was held in the reception halls of the Larisch Palace, gathered a circle of researchers from Central and Eastern Europe (i.e. Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine) as well as a large audience. Eleven lectures were presented during the meeting, ten of which were in English and one of which was in German.

The opening lecture titled “Unions in Medieval Canon Law” was delivered by Prof. Waław Uruszczak (Jagiellonian University, Poland). In his speech, not only did he introduce a thorough analysis of the concept of union in medieval canon law, but he also presented its probable influence on political unions, *inter alia* concerning the emergence of the Polish-Lithuanian Union.

The initial panel comprised two papers. The former, “Legal Aspects of Slovakia’s Unification with the Emerging Czechoslovakia in the Interpretation by Vratislav Kalousek”, was presented by Prof. Bohumil Jiroušek and Dr. Jitka Rauchová (both of

the University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czechia). The latter (“Difficulties with the Polish-Lithuanian Union during the Reign of the Vasa”) was presented by Prof. Izabela Lewandowska-Malec (Jagiellonian University, Poland).

The subsequent session, preceded by a coffee break, consisted of four papers. Firstly, Dr. Kamila Staudigl-Ciechowicz (Austrian Academy of Science, Austria) presented a lecture regarding the influence of the Allgemeines bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (ABGB) on Central European civil law (“Civil Law in Forced Unions – the Case of the ABGB and Its Significance for the Development of Civil Law in Central Europe”). She was followed by Dr. Norbert Varga (University of Szeged, Hungary), who focused on economic competition agreements (“The Antecedents of the Regulation of Economic Competition Agreements after the Austrian and Hungarian Compromise”), as well as by Dr. Hab. Marcin Kwiecień (Jagiellonian University, Poland), who offered the participants his thoughts on the Union of Hadziacz (“Unerfüllte Union – Hadziacz 1658”). The closing paper, presented by Dr. Dunja Milotić (University of Zagreb, Croatia) was in fact an analysis of the process of unification of criminal law in inter-war Yugoslavia (“Unification of Criminal Law in the Interwar Yugoslav State (1918–1941)”).

The second panel was followed by lunch and a brief meeting of those members of the Advisory Board of the “Cracow Studies of Constitutional and Legal History” who were present, where Dr. Hab. Maciej Mikuła presented a short summary, followed by deliberations regarding both the past and future of the journal.

During the last session four papers were presented. Dr. Jakob Maziarz (Jagiellonian University, Poland) provided the audience with some remarks on the Polish-Lithuanian Union of Lublin (“Polish-Lithuanian Union and the Declared Equality before the Law in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth”). Then, Dr. Roman Shandra (Ivan Franko Lviv National University, Ukraine) presented a lecture on the legal culture of peasants in modern Poland-Lithuania (“Transformation of the Legal Culture of the Galician Rural People under the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth”). The next speaker, Dr. Hab. Paweł Cichoń (Jagiellonian University, Poland) presented the status of 19th century Kraków in wider perspective (“The Free City of Cracow in the Politics of Neighbouring States”). Finally, Dr. Hab. Maciej Mikuła (Jagiellonian University, Poland) offered the audience some innovative remarks on the phenomenon of circulation of law (“«Circulation of Law» in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth”).

The conference, held in the year of the 550th anniversary of the Polish-Lithuanian Union of Lublin (1569), turned out to be a great opportunity for presenting various aspects concerning unions of states, and exchanging ideas among Central and Eastern European researchers.